

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Agent for Applicant requests that the following amendments be made to the claims without adding any new subject matter. The additions thereto are underlined, while the deletions therefrom are contained in square brackets or strike through.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting business electronically between a plurality of computers corresponding to a plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers, said system being adapted to send data to and receive data from said plurality of computers, said system comprising:
  - (a) a server computer connected to said interconnected network of computers, said server computer comprising a supply chain data exchange means, wherein said data exchange means provides:
    - (i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users;
    - (ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
    - (iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;
    - (iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
    - (v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules, including the business rules for implementing the supply chain for each of the plurality of users.
2. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, said system further comprising a database for storing data generated by said data exchange means.

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3. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting business electronically as claimed in claim 2, wherein said data exchange means comprises an application repository of integrated utilities said integrated utilities providing a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users; a means for mapping data transactions; a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats; a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being integrated with responsive to said data transaction repository and being responsive to the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules.
4. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data exchange means is provided in accordance with an open standards architecture that permits deployment of additional utilities to said application repository.
5. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said server computer is responsive to data received from said plurality of computers regardless of the electronic format of such data; and wherein said server computer sends data to said plurality of computers in an electronic format understood by each of said plurality of computers.
6. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said server computer further comprises a display means for displaying data generated by said data exchange means to each of said plurality of users in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users.
7. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said display means permits each of said plurality of users to access and process data generated by said data exchange means in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users.

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8. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said data exchange means further comprises a means for receiving and processing instructions defining an electronic workflow in said data exchange means, said electronic workflow corresponding to the electronic business cycle of each of said plurality of users.
9. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said data exchange means further comprises:
  - (a) a security means for providing data security;
  - (b) a data exchange administration means for automated administration of security, user profiles and preferences;
  - (c) an extraction means for extracting data generated by said data exchange means from said database;
  - (d) a reporting means for providing said plurality of users with reports based on said data generated by said data exchange means; and
  - (e) a data archive means for extracting archive data from said database related to data transactions processed by said data exchange means.
10. (Currently Amended) A computer product for installation on a server computer for conducting business electronically between a plurality of computers corresponding to a plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers, said system being adapted to send data to and receive data from said plurality of computers, said computer product comprising:
  - (a) a server computer product adapted to facilitate communication between said server computer and an interconnected network of computers, said server computer product comprising a supply chain data exchange means, wherein said data exchange means cooperates with a database to provide:
    - (i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said

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business rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users;

- (ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
- (iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;
- (iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
- (v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules, including the business rules for implementing the supply chain for each of the plurality of users; and

(b) a facility for storing data generated by said data exchange means to said database.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer product as claimed in claim 2, wherein said data exchange means comprises an application repository of integrated utilities said integrated utilities providing a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users; a means for mapping data transactions; a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats; a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being integrated with responsive to said data transaction repository and being responsive to the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer product as claimed in claim 11, wherein said data exchange means is provided in accordance with an open standards architecture that permits deployment of additional utilities to said application repository.

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13. (Previously Presented) A computer product as claimed in claim 12, wherein said computer product is responsive to data received from said plurality of users regardless of the electronic format of such data.
14. (Previously Presented) A computer product as claimed in claim 13, wherein said computer product further comprises a display means for displaying data generated by said data exchange means to each of said plurality of users in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users.
15. (Previously Presented) A computer product as claimed in claim 14, wherein said display means permits each of said plurality of users to access and process data generated by said data exchange means in accordance with the business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users.
16. (Currently Amended) A computer product as claimed in claim 7, wherein said data exchange means further comprises a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to a workflow implemented in said data exchange means, said workflow corresponding to the electronic business cycle based on the supply chain of each of said plurality of users.
17. (Previously Presented) A computer product as claimed in claim 16, wherein said data exchange means further comprises:
  - (a) a security means for providing data security;
  - (b) a data exchange administration means for automated administration of security, user profiles and preferences;
  - (c) an extraction means for extracting data generated by said data exchange means from said database;
  - (d) a reporting means for providing said plurality of users with reports based on said data generated by said data exchange means; and
  - (e) a data archive means for extracting archive data from said database related to data transactions processed by said data exchange means.

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18. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting business electronically between a plurality of computers corresponding to a plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers, said system being adapted to send data to and receive data from said plurality of computers, said system comprising:

(a) a server computer connected to said interconnected network of computers, said server computer comprising a supply chain data exchange means, wherein said data exchange means provides:

(i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users;

(ii) a means for mapping data transactions;

(iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;

(iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and

(v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules wherein said data exchange means and database are integrated so that data flows freely between said data exchange means and database, and wherein the business rules include rules for implementing the supply chain for each of the plurality of users.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of implementing an electronic community adapted to permit a plurality of users to exchange business electronically, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining the business rules of said plurality of users;

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- (b) customizing a supply chain data exchange means in accordance with said business rules, said data exchange means comprising:
  - (i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users;
  - (ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
  - (iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;
  - (iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
  - (v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules, including the business rules for implementing the supply chain for each of the plurality of users.
- (c) providing access to the data exchange means to said plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of implementing an electronic community adapted to permit a plurality of users to exchange business electronically, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining the business rules of said plurality of users, including the business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users;
- (b) customizing a supply chain data exchange means in accordance with said business rules, said supply chain data exchange means comprising:

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- (i) a means for receiving and processing instructions corresponding to business rules corresponding to each of said plurality of users, said business rules defining at least business rules for implementing a supply chain for each of the plurality of users;
- (ii) a means for mapping data transactions;
- (iii) a means for translating data transactions from and to a plurality of electronic formats;
- (iv) a data transaction repository for receiving and processing instructions for deployment of data transactions; and
- (v) an electronic commerce means for processing data transactions, said electronic commerce means being responsive to said data transaction repository and the business rules so as to process data transactions in accordance with said business rules, including the business rules for implementing the supply chain for each of the plurality of users:-

- (c) providing access to the data exchange means to said plurality of users through an interconnected network of computers; and
- (d) customization of the data exchange means so as to permit each of said plurality of users to access data generated by said data exchange means in accordance with user requirements by means of a custom interface.